EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

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ABSTRACT :

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To reduce the amount of overhead associated with the internal positioning process of a writing/reading head by providing a spare region corresponding to a continuous region, which is made up with a recorded region and a continuous un-used user region located in front of the recorded region, immediately after the recorded region every time a continous recording is completed.

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SOLUTION: Information to be recorded in recording and reproducing units of physical addresses (NU-1) and NU is recorded in recording and reproducing units of physical addresses (NUT+1) and (NUT+2) and a jump to a spare region, that is continuously secured from the back tip of an original recording region, is combined. Thus, no effect is resulted to the logical addresses of recording and reproducing units after the address (NU+1). In other words, even though effective information exists in a user region after the physical address (NU+1), the defect recording and reproducing units generated later are replaced. Moreover, even though plural defect recording and reproducing units exist in a continuous recording region, only single spare region access is required.

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